

IN THE CLAIMS

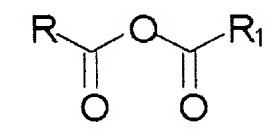
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for ~~the~~ chemical treatment of at least one lignocellulose material, ~~the method~~ comprising:

impregnating ~~said the~~ lignocellulose material with a chemical agent comprising hydrocarbonaceous chains;

wherein;

~~said the~~ agent comprises a mixed anhydride, given by the formula:



where R is a first hydrocarbonaceous chain and R₁ is a second hydrocarbonaceous chain different from the first hydrocarbonaceous chain, except for the mixed anhydride of that when either of R or R₁ is a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from acetic/ acid, the other of R and R₁ is not a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from benzoic acid; and

~~said the~~ agent is capable of providing covalent grafting of a plurality of the hydrocarbonaceous chains to ~~said materials~~ the lignocellulose material.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said agent~~ provides ~~said the~~ covalent grafting and ~~the grafting~~ is carried out by ~~the~~ esterification of ~~said~~ at least one the lignocellulose material with ~~a chemical the agent comprising organic anhydrides~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treatment~~ impregnating is carried out at a temperature between ambient temperature and 150 °C.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein R is ~~represented by a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R₁ is represented by a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, and~~ said the carboxylic acid and fatty acid are saturated or unsaturated.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein R₁ is ~~represented by a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R is represented by a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, and~~ said the carboxylic acid and fatty acid are saturated or unsaturated.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixed anhydride comprises a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from acetic acid /and a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from octanoic acid ~~acid~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ impregnating is carried out in the presence of a basic catalyst.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a neutral catalyst.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a weak acid catalyst.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a catalyst.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out by a dipping process.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out by a spraying process.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the impregnating is carried out in an autoclave.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one lignocellulose material ~~is~~comprises at least one piece of wood.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fibers are homogeneous and exhibit a smoothed appearance.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of absorption is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of swelling is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein ~~said the~~ wood ~~is comprises at least one member~~ selected from the group consisting of oak, pine, fir, curupixa, and eucalyptus ~~and mixtures thereof~~.